

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
28 July 2005 (28.07.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/069169 A1**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **G06F 17/30**

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/IB2005/050089

(22) International Filing Date: 7 January 2005 (07.01.2005)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
0400474.3 10 January 2004 (10.01.2004) GB

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **KONIN-  
KLJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V.** [NL/NL];  
Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **MAK, Anthony, H.,  
F.** [GB/GB]; c/o Philips Intellectual Property, & Standards,  
Cross Oak Lane, Redhill Surrey RH1 5HA (GB).

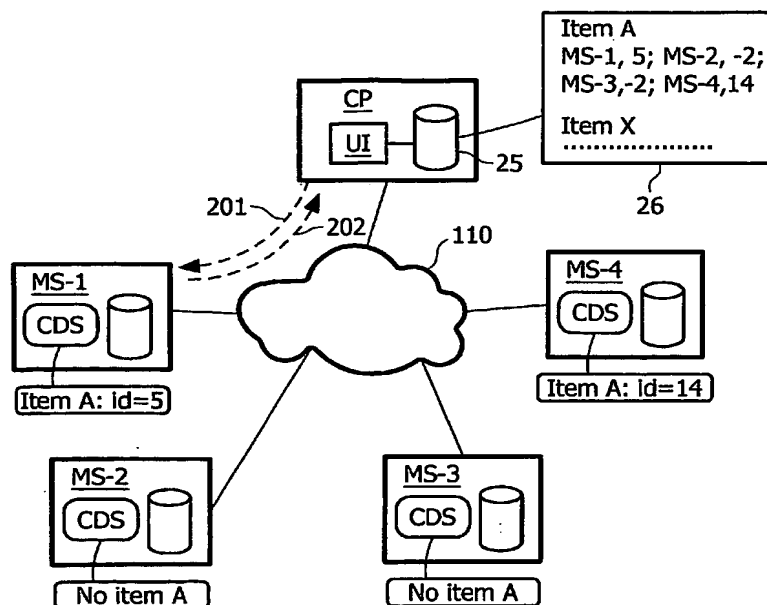
(74) Agents: **WILLIAMSON, Paul, L.** et al.; c/o Philips In-  
tellectual Property, & Standards, Cross Oak Lane, Redhill  
Surrey RH1 5HA (GB).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every  
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,  
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,  
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,  
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,  
KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD,  
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG,  
PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM,  
TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM,  
ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every  
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,  
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,  
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),  
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,  
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO,  
SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN,  
GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SEARCHING CONTENT DIRECTORIES



(57) Abstract: A network comprises a plurality of content servers (MS-1 - MS-4) which each store media content objects and a directory of descriptive information about the stored media content objects. A control point (CP) in the network queries the servers (MS-1 - MS-4) to retrieve descriptive information. The control point (CP) analyses the information to determine which content servers store the same object. Upon receiving a search request, the control point (CP) uses the stored information to determine which content servers in the network need to be queried in order to retrieve the content, or further information about the content. Queries to servers which do not contain relevant content can be reduced or eliminated.



**Published:**

— *with international search report*

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*